

DECEMBER 2025

CHRISTMAS

VOL 113, NUM. 12

The Witness

THE NEWSLETTER OF WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH, TOPEKA, KS

FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART: ADVENT "A SEASON OF EXPECTATION...AND CELEBRATION"

*"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned." (Isaiah 9:2)*

Advent invites us into a season of expectation, trusting that God is at work even before we see the results. It's a time to reflect on God's faithfulness and look forward to Him fulfilling His promises. Isaiah reminds us that "in days to come" God will draw all people toward His peace (Isaiah 2:1–5). We wait with hope, looking for the light that God promises to shine into our world.

Advent is a season of preparation, as we make room in our hearts, homes, and lives for Christ to dwell richly. The "shoot from the stump of Jesse" (Isaiah 11:1) encourages us that God brings new life out of what feels worn down. Through worship, prayer, and service, we prepare to welcome the Prince of Peace.

Advent is a season of jubilation as we celebrate the joy that Christ brings. This joy transforms our dreary worlds into beacons of hope and light, and helps our hearts sing.

Advent is a season of incarnation and celebration. Isaiah promises that "the desert shall rejoice and blossom" (Isaiah 35:1). In Jesus—Emmanuel, "God with us"—we celebrate God's joy breaking into our lives. May this Advent strengthen our hope, deepen our peace, and fill our church with Christ's joy.

I hope you will join us this Advent & Christmas as we prepare for Christ's coming as Savior and Lord.

Come, Lord
Jesus, Come!
Blessings,
Pastor Ivan+



DECEMBER

1st Sunday of Advent 11/30

Ladies/Mens Night Out ... 2

Children's Pageant 3

**Greuter Family Christmas
Cookie Party 6**

2nd Sunday of Advent..... 7

Women's Ministry..... 8

Church Council..... 9

**Christian Book Club &
"Journey to Jesus" 10**

3rd Sunday of Advent.... 14

**"Journey to Jesus" & Youth
Christmas Party 17**

4th Sunday of Advent.... 21

**Christmas Eve Candlelight
Communion Service 24**

CHRISTMAS DAY..... 25

**1st Sunday After Christmas
Ugly Sweater/ Ugly Outfight
"Refugee Sunday"..... 28**

New Year's Eve 31

**Epiphany Sunday 1/4
De-decorate after Worship**

wsbctopeka.org/2025/01/calendar

A PLACE TO BELONG, BELIEVE, and BE INVOLVED

CHURCH OFFICE

 Our Staff



12/10 Clarissa & Joshua Foser
12/12 Jan & Doug Mauck
12/22 Jessica & Corey Gilmore
12/27 Pat & Tony Carreno



12/01 Vicki Martinson
12/01 Charles Tanksley Jr.
12/06 Will Cokeley
12/07 Lindsey Wabaunsee
12/09 Pat Carreno
12/14 Bradley Carpenter
12/16 Terry Poe
12/16 Chelsey Carpenter
12/18 Janet Nyfeler
12/19 Jace Geist
12/22 Nancy May
12/23 Jack Janway
12/28 Silas Shaw
12/29 Nicholas Emery
12/31 Bailee Carpenter
Rhette Raines

Send Anniversary & Birthday
Information and Updates to
office@wsbctopeka.org

CHURCH CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS

The Church will be **CLOSED** on
Thursday, December 25 and on
Thursday, January 1, 2025.

We will return to our regular hours on
Friday January 2, 2026.

NEWS ARTICLES DUE
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAYS: PASTOR'S DAY OFF

MONDAYS - CLOSED

TUESDAY - THURSDAYS

8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

FRIDAYS: 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

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WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

1008 SW 4th St. | Topeka, KS 66606

Phone: (785) 233-4241

Email: office@wsbctopeka.org



CHURCH BUILDING, OFFICE & PROGRAMS – as well as our Community Assistance Programs (e.g., the Baby Closet, Food Pantry, etc.) and Community/Neighborhood Meetings (e.g., D.A.R., Forbes AA Group, Capital City Chorus, T.O.P.S., etc.) will be canceled and the building will close when the **US National Weather Service issues a Weather Warning or Emergency, or when The State of Kansas, Shawnee County, or the City of Topeka declares a Weather Emergency.**

In the event of cancellation, we will notify our community as soon as possible through the following channels:

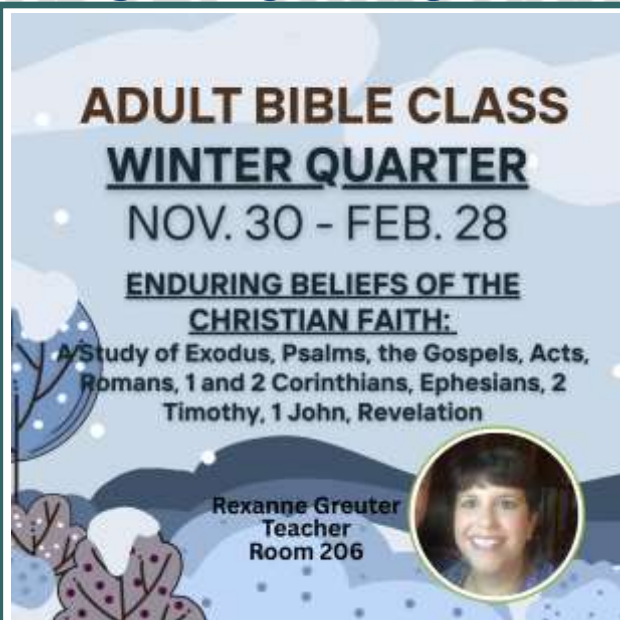
1. **Church Website:** <https://wsbctopeka.org>.
2. **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/wsbctopeka>.
3. **Local TV Stations:** Check local broadcast stations.

If weather impacts overnight, announcements will be made by 7:00 AM on Sunday morning via these platforms. Worship services will **ONLY** be canceled at the agreement of the Church Moderator, Coordinator of Worship, and the Pastor. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Stay Safe and Stay Warm!



ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



WINTER SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES (NOVEMBER 30— FEBRUARY 28)

“Enduring Beliefs of the Christian Faith”

A Study of Exodus, Psalms, the Gospels, Acts, Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Ephesians, 2 Timothy, 1 John, Revelation

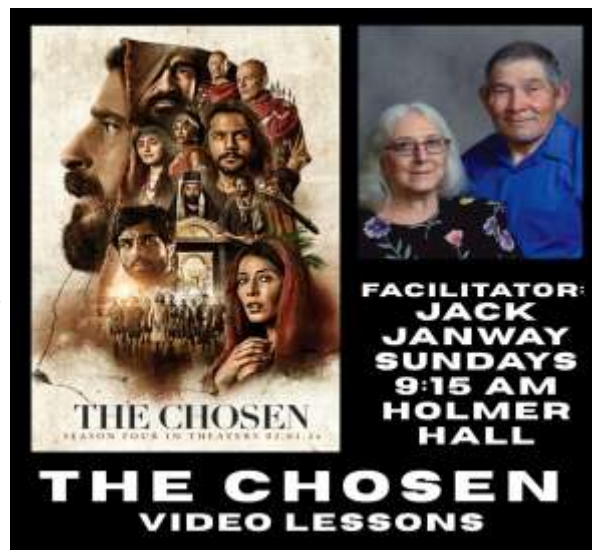
Room 206 (Upstairs)

This winter, join a small group of bible students for an in-depth Bible study using the **Standard Lesson Commentary NIV – Winter 2025 edition**. The Enduring Beliefs lessons invites us to meditate on the fundamental beliefs of the Christian faith. This study will show us that God has revealed his grace and mercy. As a result, God’s people are called to live by his standard—a standard that is often countercultural.

“The Chosen” Video Lessons

We’re excited to launch a fresh, inspiring class this fall using **The Chosen — Episode TBD by Class**.

This acclaimed multi-season TV series brings the life of Jesus to vivid, personal life through the eyes of those who met Him. *The Chosen* unfolds in first-century Judea and Galilee, portraying Jesus not just as a historical figure but as a living, relatable Teacher who interacts with everyday people in heartfelt ways. Each week, we’ll watch an episode together, then dive into the Scripture it brings to life. Expect thoughtful discussion, Bible reflection, and meaningful connections with fellow participants. Jack Janway will lead in Holmer Hall



THE FAITH WE SING: CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Get ready to lift your voices and your hearts this Advent season! Beginning soon, we’ll offer a **six-week Sunday School class** titled **“The Faith We Sing”** — a joyful exploration of our most beloved **Advent and Christmas hymns**, their fascinating histories, and the deep faith they express. We hope to continue into the New Year.

Each week, we’ll learn about the stories and theology behind the songs that have shaped generations of believers. Why do we sing “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”? What inspired “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”? How do these hymns form our understanding of the Incarnation and God’s great gift of love?

The class will **meet in the Music Room (first floor)** — come ready to **learn, reflect, and sing!** No experience or special musical ability is needed, just a love for worship and the joy of song.

Come Learn and Sing on Sunday Mornings at 9:00 AM

CHILDRENS MINISTRY

*WHAT'S GOING TO
HAPPEN THIS YEAR at
the KIDS CHRISTMAS
PROGRAM?*

Will a Llama find Jesus?

**Will the Wisemen arrive in a
Camaro? Will the Sheep Revolt?**

**Will the audience throw
popcorn? Will there be chaos?**

No One Knows What's Going to
Happen (expect Pastor Ivan). Come
laugh your hearts into joy this year on

Wednesday, December 3

“WHY CAN'T I BE THE STAR?”

Showtime: 6:15 PM

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY



**Children's
PROGRAM**

**FREE WEDNESDAY FAMILY
SUPPER 5:30 - 6:00 PM**

****All Food is Available at No Cost****



BREAKFAST @ 9 | CLASS @ 9:15 AM

WHY YOUR KIDS NEED SUNDAY SCHOOL!

Sunday School is a vital part of nurturing our children's faith. Through engaging Bible stories, songs, and activities, children learn about God's love, Jesus' teachings, and the values that shape a Christ-centered life. It's a safe and welcoming space where kids can ask questions, make friends, and begin to see how faith connects to their everyday lives. Investing in Sunday School helps children grow spiritually and lays a foundation for a lifelong relationship with God. Kids will:

- ◆ **Learn the Bible Stories and Teachings**
- ◆ **Explore the Foundations of Faith**
- ◆ **Build a Strong Moral Framework**
- ◆ **Encounter Safe People of Care**
- ◆ **Discover How Faith Connects to Life**
- ◆ **Grow Curious, Creative, and Engaged**
- ◆ **Form Good Habits for a Lifetime**
- ◆ **Connect with the Eternal God of Love**



**NO WWW
KIDS BIBLE
CLUB**

**Winter Break
Dec. 10-31
Join us Jan. 7**

Bible Scavenger Hunt

FOR ADVENT

Prepare for Christmas with this Bible-based Advent activity. Each day in December, look up the answer to one question.



1 What will God's Son be called?
(Isaiah 7:14)

2 Where will Jesus reign?
(Isaiah 9:7)

3 Where will Jesus be born?
(Micah 5:2)

4 How many generations are between Abraham and the Christ?
(Matthew 1:17)

5 Who tells Mary she is having a baby?
(Luke 1:26-31)

10 Who issues the decree about a census?
(Luke 2:1)

9 What does Jesus' name mean?
(Matthew 1:21)

8 Until his son John the Baptist is born, what can Zechariah not do?
(Luke 1:20, 64)

7 What does Mary say that God has done for her?
(Luke 1:49)

6 Which relative of Mary is also having a baby?
(Luke 1:41)

11 From where do Joseph and Mary start their journey to Bethlehem?
(Luke 2:4)

12 What does Mary use to wrap up baby Jesus?
(Luke 2:7)

13 What serves as Jesus' first bed?
(Luke 2:7)

14 Who tells the shepherds the good news about Jesus' birth?
(Luke 2:8-12)

15 When the shepherds tell others about Jesus, how do people react?
(Luke 2:8-12)

20 Where does Joseph flee with his family for safety?
(Matthew 2:14)

19 What three gifts does Jesus receive from the wise men?
(Matthew 2:11)

18 Who is upset to hear about a newborn King?
(Matthew 2:3)

17 From what direction do the wise men (or Magi) come to worship Jesus?
(Matthew 2:1-2)

16 On what day is Jesus presented in the temple?
(Luke 2:21)

21 When does Jesus' family return to Israel?
(Matthew 2:19-21)

22 In what district does Jesus grow up?
(Matthew 2:22)

23 What free gift does God give us through Jesus, his Son?
(1 John 5:11)

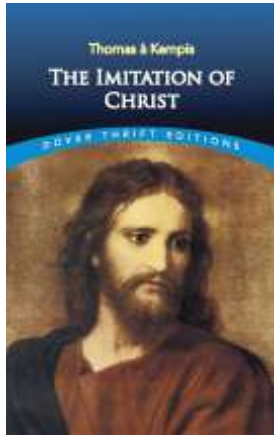
24 Where do all our gifts come from?
(James 1:17)

25 How should we respond to our gifts?
(2 Corinthians 9:15)



Answers: 1. Immanuel 2. On David's throne 3. Bethlehem 4-42 5. The angel Gabriel 6. Elizabeth 7. Great things 8. Speak 9. He will save his people from their sins 10. Caesar Augustus 11. Nazareth, in Galilee 12. Cloth, or swaddling clothes 13. A manger 14. An angel of the Lord 15. They are amazed, or in wonder 16. The eighth 17. The east 18. Herod 19. Gold, frankincense and myrror 20. Egypt 21. After Herod dies 22. Galilee 23. Eternal life 24. From above, from the Father of lights 25. Give thanks to God!

FELLOWSHIP & MEMBERSHIP



CHRISTIAN CLASSICS BOOK CLUB: Deepen Your Faith and Gain Wisdom from Spiritual Giants. Join the Christian Classics Book Club in December 2025 for this masterpiece:

**“THE IMITATION OF CHRIST” BY THOMAS ‘A KEMPIS
NOTE CHANGES TO THE DECEMBER SCHEDULE:**

- **SECOND WEDNESDAY (12/10) at 11:30 AM (HH)**
- **THIRD SUNDAY (12/21) at 5:30 PM (HH)**

*Find Information and Study Guides at
<https://wsbctopeka.org/book-club>*

WHAT’S COMING IN 2026:

- ♦ **JANUARY:** “THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP” by Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- ♦ **FEBRUARY:** “THE BEAUTIFUL WORLD” by Susan Rohrer
- ♦ **MARCH:** “THE CONFESSIONS OF SAINT PATRICK” by Patrick of Ireland
- ♦ **APRIL:** “THE SEVEN LAST WORDS FROM THE CROSS” by Fleming Rutledge
- ♦ **MAY:** “A CHANCE TO DIE: The Life and Legacy of Amy Carmichael” by Elisabeth Elliot
- ♦ **JUNE:** “ALL OF GRACE” by Charles Haddon Spurgeon
- ♦ **JULY:** “REACHING OUT: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life” by Henri Nouwen
- ♦ **AUGUST:** “THE CITY OF GOD” by Augustine of Hippo
- ♦ **SEPTEMBER:** “RESOLUTIONS: and ADVICE TO YOUNG CONVERTS” by J. Edwards
- ♦ **OCTOBER:** “THE RULE AND EXERCISES OF HOLY LIVING” by Jeremy Taylor
- ♦ **NOVEMBER:** “THE RULE AND EXERCISES OF HOLY DYING” by Jeremy Taylor
- ♦ **DECEMBER:** “THE MAN BORN TO BE KING” by Dorothy L. Sayers

GRAB A HARD or ELECTRONIC COPY OF THE BOOK from our **AMAZON BOOKSTORE, Topeka/Shawnee County Public Library (TSCPL),** or listen at **AUDIOBOOK.COM,** if you prefer. ***All are welcome!***



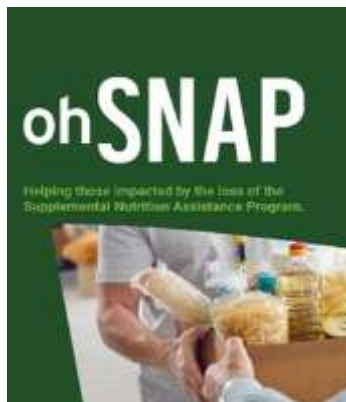
MENS & LADIES NIGHT OUT – This is a fun time of building friendships in church. **Ladies & Men’s Night Out** is a monthly restaurant outing on the **First Tuesday** of the month. We will meet on **Tuesday, December 2, at 6:00 pm** at **IHOP 551 US 24 HWY**. Each person is responsible for paying for their own meal, and don’t forget to bring a friend and pay for their meal. **Questions: Talk to Colleen, Coordinator**

HOLIDAY FOOD COLLECTIONS & DRIVES

WE DID IT! WE REACH OUR GOALS because of YOU and YOUR GENEROSITY!

Thank you for your generous donations for the **Thanksgiving Food Drives!** We were able to share the following free food with children and neighbors:

- ♦ **100+ Boxes of Stuffing with Doorstep Inc.**
- ♦ **40 Frozen Chickens** (Lowman Hill Elementary)
- ♦ **20 Boxes of Mac and Cheese** (Loman Hill)
- ♦ **20 Cans of Sweet Potatoes** (Lowman Hill)
- ♦ **80 Cans of Tuna** (40 Lowman Hill + 40 Meadows)
- ♦ **20 Boxes of Spaghetti Noodles** (Meadows)
- ♦ **20 Cans of Spaghetti Sauce** (Meadows)



WE WERE BLESSED to receive \$2,800.00 worth of food from **DOORSTEP** and the **UNITED WAY** of **KAW VALLEY** to make forty (40) Thanksgiving Food Boxes for **BABY CLOSET** families **AND** 16 Thanksgiving food boxes for our **NEIGHBORS** in **November**. These boxes were given away through the **BABY CLOSET** and **FOOD PANTRY** *in addition to the food collections for school and church families.*

A BIG THANK YOU to **JACK, ANGIE, LAURIE, MARK, PAT C., TABBITHA, TRACI** and many others!

SHARING IS CARING: God bless the generous donors and our **DEACONS** who shared food baskets and an Aldi grocery store gift card with **TEN FAMILIES** (45 persons) in our congregation. Truly, love one another!



WHAT'S NEXT? CHRISTMAS BASKETS: We are collecting food items, mom gifts (Baby Closet) and cash donations for Christmas Baskets for church families, moms, and our neighbors. **Donate non-perishable food items** for the following needs: **HAMS, BOX CHEESY POTATOES, CANS OF VEGETABLES, BODY LOTIONS, FACE MASKS, KLEENEX'S/FACE TISSUES, LIP BALMS, CHAPSTICK, HAND TOWELS, WASH CLOTHES, FUZZY SOCKS, KITCHEN OVEN MITTENS, SOFT BLANKETS, GIFT CARDS, ETC.**

DONATION DEADLINE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

OUR CHURCH FINANCES

Our income for October was \$19,901.13 compared to \$10,150.68 in September. For the first ten months of 2025 our income total was \$256,456.48 or 93.22% of our annual budget. Our % goal for ten months is 83.3% so we remain over our budgeted goal for another month!

Our expenses for October totaled \$28,956.92 compared to September of \$28,888.39. For the first ten months of 2025 we have an expense total of \$286,108.19 or 89.96% of our budget. Expenses to note include: Payroll is every two weeks and this month we had three pay periods; #7730 Organ/Piano Maintenance – two times a year and one was this month - \$395.

The difference of income to expenses for October was -\$9,055.79 compared to September of -\$18,737.71 and for the year is -\$29,651.71.

Our checking account balance shown on the balance sheet is \$4,058.80. This includes: -\$53,299.69 in (#1001) main account; \$5,422.11 in (#1003) Outreach funds; \$48,718.82 in (#1006) Capital Campaign; -\$141.32 (#1009) Youth Fund; and \$3,143.52 in (#1030) Benevolent Fund.

I am pleased to report that in our support of the missionaries Joseph-Carrion in the amount of \$100 per month is going well. We currently have in this fund \$818.25.

The Council met on November 18th to finalize our recommendations for the 2026 budget. We encourage you to attend the December 7th All-Church Breakfast Meeting where we will discuss and then vote on the budget and our officers for 2026. I hope you plan to attend. It is important to us to have you help us decide on our church finances for 2026.

Giving envelopes for 2026 will soon be made available. It is essential for us to keep record of your tithes and offerings. For those who give online, you will be assigned a number, but for those of you who write checks or give cash, we would like you to use an envelope to help us in recording your gifts. We will try to give you the same number that you are using this year. Please let the office know if you do not receive your envelopes or you can talk with Nelda Janway, Nancy Ohse or Nancy Lindberg and we'll get them to you. Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks. ~ Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer



DID YOU KNOW...



My first class for my Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Counseling was Foundations for the Doctor of Ministry. In this class, we compared and contrasted the attractional vs. gospel-driven (missional) church. We spent eight weeks comparing and contrasting Billy Hornsby's *The Attractional Church* and Jared C. Wilson's *The Gospel-Driven Church*: two passionate authors, two very different visions. Honestly, before this class, I did not know the difference. Here's what I learned and truly made me understand why I am drawn to West Side Baptist Church of Topeka.

Billy Hornsby, co-founder of the Association of Related Churches (ARC), believes the church has grown stale and intimidating. His solution? Become "refreshing, relational, and relevant." Excellent music, welcoming environments, practical messages—make Sunday the best hour of someone's week so they'll want to come back and eventually meet Jesus. Hornsby insists this isn't a compromise; it's removing unnecessary barriers so lost people can hear the gospel.

Hornsby argues that this isn't shallow showmanship—it's a strategic mission. "The attractional church never loses sight of the souls for whom Christ died," he writes, emphasizing outreach to neglected cultures. By nailing the "first impression"—from parking to preaching—churches foster environments where faith renews and the lost wander in. Case in point: ARC plants like Church of the Highlands, which blend excellence with evangelism to draw crowds and spark life change

Jared Wilson, on the other hand, spent a decade inside the attractional church and came out convinced it's broken. His biggest critique (and the part that hit me hardest in class) is this: attractional churches often end up preaching a "feel-good" gospel in which Jesus conforms to man rather than man conforming to Jesus.

When the driving question is "How do we keep people coming back and giving?" the preaching slowly shifts. Sin gets soft-pedaled, repentance becomes optional, and the cross is presented mainly as the solution to sadness, loneliness, or a bad week—rarely as the remedy for rebellion against a holy God. Jesus becomes a life coach who exists to make you happier, rather than the King who calls you to die to self and follow Him. Wilson writes, "What you win them with is what you win them to." Win them with a comfortable, low-commitment experience, and you'll end up with consumers, not disciples.

His alternative: A gospel-driven, missional approach where Sunday equips believers to scatter like salt and light. Worship is for disciples—raw, participatory, gospel-soaked—not polished performances for seekers. Mission flips from "come and see" to "go and tell," measuring fruit by transformed lives, not filled seats.

At the end of the day, Jesus didn't give us a vision statement about weekend attendance goals or worship-set vibes. He gave us a commission: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20)

That little word "Go" is everything. It's not "build something so attractive that they have no choice but to come," and it's not "wait until the world looks holy enough to deserve the gospel." It's "as you are going"—as you live, work, parent, neighbor, shop, suffer, and celebrate—make disciples. Go therefore and make disciples by being the feet, hands, and love of Christ to all you meet. Thank you, West Side, for being a gospel-driven church that shows the love of Christ to the community. Seeing the community not as "the lost" but as children God created whom He loves, and wants us to love where they are, and He will complete the work!

Stay tuned for next month's Did You Know! The topic will be Spiritual Formation.

~ Reverend Traci+

OUTREACH

HELPING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Help keep kids warm this winter in Topeka, Kansas. We are collecting children's warm clothes, like: **GLOVES** and **MITTENS**

STOCKING CAPS and **HATS**

SOCKS and **UNDERGARMENTS**

and other **WARM ITEMS** for our neighbors and kids at Lowman Hill Elementary and Meadows Elementary (Topeka Public Schools 501). **We have a small Christmas tree up in the sanctuary where you may place any items on the tree or under the tree.** **CASH** and **ONLINE** donations are always welcome!

The Outreach & Evangelism Committee



COMMUNITY SOUP KITCHEN: The Outreach and Evangelism Committee is excited to announce a new ministry opportunity — **the launch of a Community Soup Kitchen** right here at West Side! We're serving a simple meal of soup and sandwiches on **SUNDAYS** in **DECEMBER** at **NOON**.



Everyone in the community is welcome to come for food and fellowship — **no cost, no registration, no strings attached — just warm soup and warm hearts.** To make this ministry possible, we need your help! Donations and volunteers are both essential. We're

collecting ingredients and supplies for our first few meals, including:

- ◆ **Potatoes • Lentils • Dried beans (especially for ham & bean soup)**
- ◆ **Carrots • Celery • Onions • Broth (chicken, beef, or vegetable)**
- ◆ **Bread • Sandwich fixings (ham, turkey, cheese, condiments)**
- ◆ **Spices, salt, and pepper**



OUR YOUTH GROUP has been busy raising funds this fall to help pay for several youth trips they took this year including Silver Dollar City Young Christians Weekend. The pictures show the youth and their youth leaders at a home cleaning up landscape on two different occasions. They work hard and have fun doing it! **If you have a project for the youth, talk to their leader Tera Triggs or let the church office know.**



Doorstep Christmas Project ~ 2025



Doorstep is adopting 260 households with 800+ individuals from the Christmas Bureau again this year. We need your help to make Christmas bright for these families and individuals.

We need the following NEW items:

(Needed by 12/9/25)



Household Items:

- ♦ Sauce Pans, Dutch Ovens & Crockpots
- ♦ Kitchen Utensil Sets
- ♦ Kitchen Food Storage Sets
- ♦ Laundry Baskets & Cleaning Supplies (glass, all-purpose, toilet, micro-towels, dish soap)
- ♦ Queen & King Sheet Sets (darker colors)



Toys, Teens & Gifts:

- ♦ Learning Toys ex: Vtech
- ♦ Basketballs & Footballs
- ♦ Teen Books ~ Fantasies
- ♦ Family Board Games
- ♦ Dominoes & Card Games
- ♦ Canvases (Value Packs)
- ♦ Paints & Brushes
- ♦ Ear Buds & Headphones



Women's Gifts:

- ♦ Candles
- ♦ Nail Sets
- ♦ Body Care Sets (Body Wash, Lotion, Spray)



Men's Gifts:

- ♦ Wallets
- ♦ Tool Sets
- ♦ Body Care Sets (Axe, Adidas, Old Spice)

Money for Gift Cards & Food

Visit Doorstep's Walmart Christmas Registry:

<https://bit.ly/doorstepchristmas2024>

Purchase gifts directly from our registry!

Visit Doorstep's Amazon Wish List:

<https://a.co/ff4EokG>

Purchase gifts directly from our list!

Volunteer Opportunities:

Tuesday, December 16th ~ Opportunities from 8:30am – 12:30pm and 12:30pm – 5:30pm.
(Lunch provided)

Wednesday, December 17th ~ Opportunities available from: 8:30am – 1:30pm,
1:30pm – 4:30pm and 4:30pm - 7:30pm. (Lunch & Dinner provided)

Thursday, December 18th ~ Opportunities available from 8:30am – 12:30pm and
12:30pm – 5:30pm. (Lunch provided)

Call Doorstep (785) 357-5341 to sign up & help during distribution week!



Doorstep is located at 1119 SW 10th, 66604 (10th & Buchanan).
Christmas Donation hours are Monday - Friday, 9am - 2pm through Dec. 12th.

You can mail your monetary donations, or use our website:
DoorstepTopeka.org under the Donate Tab.

YOU SHOULD KNOW:



WOMEN'S MINISTRY
Monday, December 8 at 5:30 PM: The Women's Ministry invites all women to our monthly gathering on the **second Monday of each month** for a time of food, fellowship, and faith. In December we will doing charcuterie boards and I am bringing a "solid" meal. Also, it will be our gift exchange Christmas ornaments wrapped. Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board outside the Church Office. These evenings are set aside to relax, share stories, laugh together, and deepen our connections as sisters in Christ. Come grow with us in love and friendship!

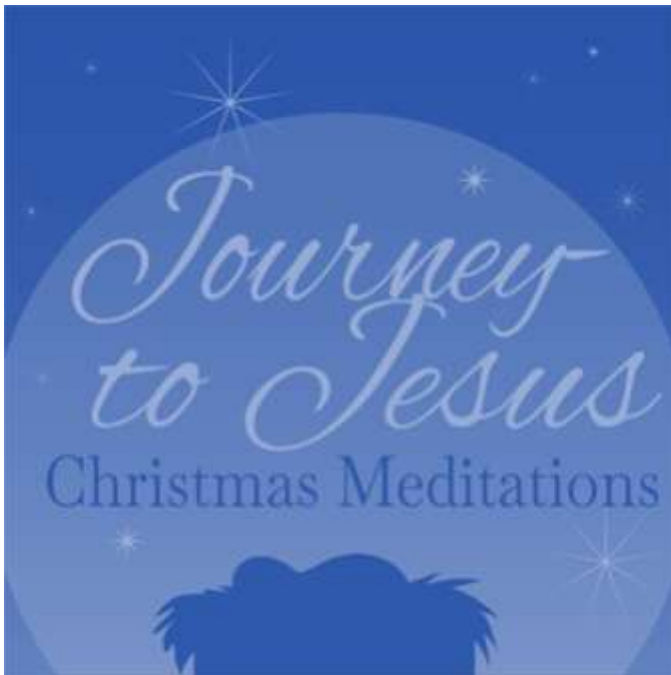
~ Reverend Traci Brown

ANNUAL REPORTS – It is that time again for all the Council members to start thinking of what you want in your report. Please submit your report to Lynda (office@wsbctopeka.org)

Annual Meeting & Potluck Lunch is tentatively set for **Sunday, JANUARY 25** after worship in Fellowship Hall

See Sonia Roling, Church Moderator, for more information and agenda items. Annual reports will be distributed prior to the meeting.





Journey to Jesus: Christmas Contemplation and Merry Meditations

***Enjoy the Spirit of Christ with Pastor Ivan+
on Wednesday, December 10 & 17, at
10:30 AM & 5:30 PM for time of quiet, calm
reflection on the sacred journey of the Holy
Family preparing for the birth of Christ.***

Together we will pause from the season's busyness to pray, listen, and make room in our hearts for Emmanuel, "God with Us."

Come be renewed by quiet worship, Centering Prayer, Lectio Divina, and the gentle hope of Mary and Joseph's faithful walk toward Bethlehem.

A light snack supper will start our time together — so bring your best holiday treats!

A RECIPE BY REQUEST Pumpkin Squares with Bev. McCurdy

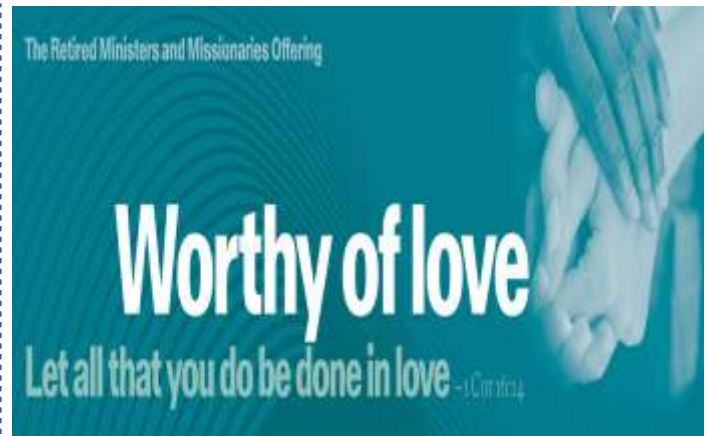
CRUST:

1/2 Cup butter, softened
1/2 Cup oatmeal
1 Cup flour
1/2 Cup brown sugar
Mix well and pat into 9x 13 pan.
Bake 15 minutes at 350 degrees

FILLING:

2 eggs, beaten
1 can pumpkin
1/2 cup granulated sugar
dash of salt
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 tablespoon ginger
1/4 teaspoon cloves
1 can, 13 ounce evaporated milk

Mix well and pour over crust.
Bake 35-40 minutes at 350 degrees
Cool and slice. Top with Kool Whip or
homemade whipped cream.



December is Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering month!

Why should congregations give?

We give to remember and thank the retired clergy and missionaries who have dedicated their lives in service to Christ, the church, and to us. With gift revenue from the RMMO 2024 offering, we distributed 3,331 thank you checks averaging \$174, a modest amount in which the gesture says far more than the dollars. For all the blessings they've brought us, together, let's remember them again this year.

WORSHIP

**The Revised Common
Lectionary Texts Year A**

Gospel Reader

Deacon Sonia Roling

**Second Sunday of
Advent - December 7**

Isaiah 11:1-10

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

**Third Sunday of
Advent - December 14**

Isaiah 35:1-10

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

**Fourth Sunday of
Advent - December 21**

Isaiah 7:10-16

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

**Christmas Eve
Candlelight Communion**

December 24

Isaiah 9:2-7

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-4 (15-20)

**The First Sunday after
Christmas - Dec. 28**

Isaiah 63:7-9

Hebrews 2:10-18

Matthew 2:13-23



**WORSHIP THE KING
CHRISTMAS EVE
6:00 PM**

DECEMBER USHERS

Jack Janway, David Greuter, Ernie Longstaff,
Mark Arnold and Clarence Payne

Interested in being an Usher?
See Clarence Payne, Head Usher

COMMUNION SERVERS

Al Carpenter, Pat Carpenter,
Angie Foster

Servers for December 24th

Tera Triggs, Angie Foster
Steve and Janelle Hood

SCRIPTURE READER

Lonna Hersh

ACTIVITY PAGE

Christmas Word Search

E	F	M	G	H	H	M	T	C	F	B	N	O	S	T
J	Z	C	I	T	O	R	H	Z	O	L	U	U	T	I
I	D	X	N	W	E	T	M	M	I	O	O	Y	N	G
I	Z	H	G	E	A	N	R	G	N	F	K	L	E	A
H	N	R	E	E	F	I	H	Q	Y	V	O	I	S	R
H	B	Y	R	E	O	T	E	L	T	S	I	M	E	P
R	G	W	B	I	S	V	J	S	E	D	G	B	R	S
U	Q	I	R	J	C	T	T	Z	X	L	M	U	P	K
D	K	A	E	M	P	O	N	H	D	E	V	Z	V	H
O	V	B	A	L	C	Y	U	E	C	O	R	E	J	O
L	W	X	D	K	S	S	Q	E	M	U	E	X	S	L
P	P	L	I	J	R	G	D	W	E	A	T	D	L	L
H	X	N	R	E	I	N	D	E	E	R	N	L	N	Y
X	G	S	L	O	R	A	C	S	R	B	I	R	T	H
S	Y	M	D	L	S	A	N	T	A	Z	W	G	O	H

CAROLS
ELVES
LIGHTS
PRESENTS
SANTA

TREE
COOKIES
GINGERBREAD
MISTLETOE
REINDEER

SLEIGH
WINTER
DECEMBER
HOLLY
ORNAMENTS

RUDOLPH
STOCKINGS
WREATH

AND SHE SHALL BRING
FORTH A SON, AND THOU SHALT
CALL HIS NAME

Jesus

FOR HE SHALL SAVE
HIS PEOPLE FROM
THEIR SINS.
Matthew 1:21 KJV
TopBibleVerses.com



BELIEVE like **MARY**
TRUST like **JOSEPH**
HOPE like **SHEPHERDS**
SEEK like **WISE MEN**
WORSHIP like **ANGELS**
LOVE like **JESUS**



CHRISTMAS SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the letters to find the Christian Christmas words.

UEJSS	_____	
EYKODN	_____	★
TEUIEYDL	_____	
CISTRH	_____	
SAENGL	_____	★
SOHRWPI	_____	
INKEENPRE	_____	
EALMICR	_____	
VAROSI	_____	
TITIANVY	_____	★
NMLEEAMU	_____	
LEGSSNIB	_____	
HDEHSEPR	_____	
IGTRALHTS	_____	
HMASSRCIT	_____	
MEHLEBETH	_____	★
DWGLNDISA	_____	
UHLLEAHLAJ	_____	
FSRSENGIVEO	_____	
CNEAIEFKSNRN	_____	

Homemade
GIFTS MADE EASY



December

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 9:00-11:00 AM Baby Closet	2 6:00 pm Ladies & Men's Night Out North Top. IHOP	3 10:30 Bible Study 3:30 PM Baby Closet 5:30 PM TOPS 5:00 PM Supper NO NURSERY 6:15 PM Kids' Christmas Play 7:00 PM Forbes AA 7:15 PM Choir Reh	4 1:00-3:00 PM Baby Closet 6 -8 PM Financial Peace Uni.	5	6 1:30 PM Praise Team
7 Advent 2 Communion NURSERY 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM 9:00 AM Sun. School 10:30 AM Worship 12 PM Soup Kitchen 3:00 PM Capital City	8 9:00-11:00 AM Baby Closet 5:30 PM Women's Ministry	9 6:00 PM Church Council	10 10:30 Bible Study 11:30 Mission Com 12:00 Book Club 3:30 PM Baby Closet 5:30 PM TOPS 5:30-7:00 NURSERY 5:30 PM Snacks & "Journey to Jesus" 7:00 PM Forbes AA	11 1:00-3:00 PM Baby Closet	12	13 1:30 PM Praise Team
14 Advent 3 NURSERY 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM 9:00 AM Sun. School 10:30 AM Worship 12 PM Soup Kitchen	15 9:00-11:00 AM Baby Closet	16	17 No Bible Study 3:30 PM Baby Closet 5:30 PM TOPS 5:30-7:00 NURSERY 5:30 PM Snacks & "Journey to Jesus" 5:30PM Youth Party 7:00 PM Forbes AA 7:15 PM Choir Reh	18 1:00-3:00 PM Baby Closet	19	20 1:30 PM Praise Team 2:30 PM Worship Com
21 Advent 4 NURSERY 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM 9:00 AM Sun. School 10:30 AM Worship 12 PM Soup Kitchen 5:30 PM Book Club	22 9:00-11:00 AM Baby Closet 6:00 PM DAR (HH)	23 2:00 PM Midtown Com Serv.	24  6:00 PM WORSHIP	25 CHRISTMAS 	26	27 1:30 pm Praise Team
28 CHRISTMASTIDE UGLY SWEATER NURSERY 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM 9:00 AM Sun. School 10:30 AM Worship 12 PM Soup Kitchen	29 9:00-11:00 AM Baby Closet	30 6:00 pm Outreach Meeting	31 No Bible Study 3:30 PM Baby Closet NO NURSERY 7:00 PM Forbes AA 11:00 Watch Night Prayer Service	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR! HOLIDAY CLOSED No Baby Closet		